

Richardson Pledges FBI Safeguards

The Justice Department will take steps to insure that the FBI crime computer system does not infringe on individual rights, Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson pledged yesterday.

In a letter to Massachusetts Gov. Francis W. Sargent, Richardson said, "Appropriate operational and legislative safe-

guards have and will continue to be instituted as necessary to guarantee the integrity of the National Crime Information System."

He said he is reviewing proposed legislation which would provide safeguards for persons affected by the computer system. He did not elaborate.

Sargent wrote Richardson

June 13 expressing concern that adequate precautions might not be taken.

He said that his state's development of a crime information system, designed to mesh with the FBI system, "has been designed to provide internal and external safeguards against potential abuse."

"Unfortunately, I have seen no similar action on the part

of the Department of Justice, the Attorney General or the FBI to construct equivalent safeguards for a national criminal information system."

Sargent said he was reluctant to encourage Massachusetts to join in the national system until he sees evidence of sufficient protection for individual rights.